

Romans 4:9-25
“Power In The Promise”

~ INTRO ~

Justification by faith...

- Is what separates *The Good News* of Biblical Christianity...
 - From all other religions in the world.
- God reaching down in love...
 - Not man working to get to God.

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE LEARNED:

- i. *Theologically*
 - a) *Justification* is an ACT of God.
 - b) There's no degrees of *justification*.
 - c) God **doesn't** make us righteous; **He** declares us righteous in Christ.
- ii. *Historically*
 - We saw *Justification* played out...
 - 1) Thru **Abraham** – the father of faith.
 - 2) Thru **David** – a man after God's own heart.
- iii. *Practically*
 - *Justification* ELIMINATES...
 - The question of **where I stand** with God?

(1 John 5:13) NKJV

- Justification is the assurance of your salvation.

POINT #1 – JUSTIFIED BY GRACE ALONE

(vv.9-10) ABRAHAM'S FAITH IN GOD...

- Was accounted to him... before he performed any religious act.
 - He **got saved & then** he got circumcised.
 - So the act was an **external response to an internal faith**.

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LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE – WATER BAPTISM.

- Salvation is a response of faith to the Gospel – not the act of baptism.
 - Water baptism is NOT an act of salvation...
 - But an act of obedience – (1 Peter 3:21) NLT.

CIRCUMCISION...

- Was a **sign & seal**.
 - The sign = Was the external physical act of circumcision.
 - The seal = Was the internal response of faith to God.

FOR MANY OF THE JEWS...

- Circumcision became **more important** than faith.
 - It was a **tangible act** they could grasp & **feel good about**...
 - While being totally **separated from** a walk of faith.

HERE’S WHAT WE’RE TO UNDERSTAND:

- External observances for salvation are completely meaningless.
 - I’m saved by grace thru faith (Eph. 2:8) NKJV.

IF EXTERNAL ACTIVITY...

- Is the basis of my faith...
 - Then I’m **relating** to God **by keeping rules**...
- And I’ve **alienated myself** from **grace**.

IDEA #2 – JUSTIFIED BY GOD NOT HUMAN EFFORT

(v.17) is a key to faith...

- “*God, who gives life to the dead*”

NOTICE THERE’S...

- No human effort that can come from a dead guy.
 - God is the only source of life.

BE CAREFUL...

- That you don’t begin to live with **self-imposed righteousness**...
(I have to keep this / I have to keep that / or I’m not right!)

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PEOPLE WANT THE

- **New covenant** for salvation...
 - And the **old covenant** for sanctification...
 - Because they get to do something to earn grace – NO!

(Gal. 5:4) NKJV...

- Paul calls this condition, “*Fallen from grace.*”
 - **Not fallen from salvation...**
 - But fallen from the sphere of God’s blessing.
- We don’t become holy by obeying God’s law in our own power.
 - It is **only BY** yielding to the Holy Spirit by faith.

SO...

- Why did God establish the principals of righteousness by faith?

Pastor Chuck Smith

*“Because it’s the only way my relationship with Him
can remain constant in spite of human failures.”*

~ IN CLOSING ~

(Rom 4:22-25) NLT